

**Action Item - 28**

**Board of Education Meeting Date:** 1/30/2025

**Title:** Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Conferences and Competitions (\$150,000)

**Action Under Consideration:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize execution and performance of a contract by The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, subject to funding, as follows:

**With:**

Various state and national hotels and conference centers including but not limited to:

- Wyndham Resort and Convention Center
- Deca, Inc
- Pennsylvania DECA
- HOSA
- PA HOSA
- Skills USA
- PA Skills USA
- PA FFA
- PA FBLA
- Lancaster Host LLC
- Hershey's Conference Center
- Penn State

**Purpose:** Payment of invoices to various hotels and conference centers to allow for student participation in Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) conferences and competitions

**Start Date:** 1/31/2025

**End Date:** 12/31/2025

**Compensation not to exceed:** \$150,000 (All hotels and conference centers will be paid from the aggregate not to exceed amount of \$150,000)

**Location(s):**

Bartram, John High School; Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) High School; Dobbins, Murrell Career and Technical Education High School; Edison, Thomas A. High School; Frankford High School; Franklin, Benjamin High School; Franklin Learning Center (FLC); Furness, Horace High School; Kensington High School; Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA); Kensington Health Sciences

Academy; King, Martin Luther High School; Lincoln, Abraham High School; Mastbaum, Jules E. Area Vocational Technical High School; Northeast High School; Overbrook High School; Randolph, A. Philip Career and Technical High School; Robeson, Paul High School for Human Services; Roxborough High School; Saul, Walter B. High School; South Philadelphia High School; Science Leadership Academy (SLA); Swenson Arts and Technology High School; The Workshop School; Washington, George High School; West Philadelphia High School

**Renewal Options: Yes**

Number of options: 3; Duration of each option: 1 year

**Maximum compensation authorized per option period:**

\$150,000 (plus an additional 10% per year) with all hotels and conference centers paid from the aggregate amount

**Description:**

**Why is this contract needed?**

A Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is an extracurricular group for students in CTE pathways to further their knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events, and competitions. Student participation is mandated by Chapter 339 (Vocational Education Standards) of the Pennsylvania School Code as an integral part of a Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approved CTE program. CTSOs are co-curricular, not extra-curricular, as they allow CTE students to apply the technical skills they have acquired to real world simulated competitions with their peers from across the region, state, and nation. The Office of Career and Technical Education pays the invoices associated with the costs of hotels and conference centers to allow for student participation in the state and national competitions.

The District currently has chapters affiliated with the following PDE-approved CTSOs: Distributive Education Clubs of America, An Association of Marketing Students (DECA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), National Future Farmers of America (FFA), Skills USA, Technology Student Association (TSA), US For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST), and Robotics. CTSOs are intended to provide career awareness, leadership, motivation, and recognition for career-related skills, and serve as an extension of the classroom instructional program by integrating academics and career and technical skills into real work experiences. CTSO activities, such as regional contests, state conventions, and national competitions, provide the foundation needed for students to achieve in the classroom while also teaching students valuable employability and leadership skills. Students also learn the importance of meeting and engaging in activities with a diverse group and the appropriate social behaviors necessary to succeed. All of these factors contribute to the goal of total student development, which is necessary for all CTE students to assume successful roles in society and to enter the labor market.

This Action Item is connected to Goal 5, 5.1 and 5.2 and Guardrail 2, 2.1 and 2.2:

Goal 5: The percentage of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students who pass an industry standards-based competency assessment by the end of their 12th grade year will grow from 49.1% in August 2023 to 80.0% in August 2030.

- Leading Indicator 5.1: The percentage of eligible students who take and pass the NOCTI.
- Leading Indicator 5.2: The percentage of CTE students who have a documented job placement and/or postsecondary opportunity.

Guardrail 2: Every student will have a well-rounded education with co-curricular opportunities, including arts and athletics, integrated into the school experience.

- Indicator 2.1: The percentage of K-12 students enrolled in a visual or performing arts course at each school.
- Indicator 2.2: The percentage of K-12 students participating in co-curricular activities, including athletics, at each school.

**Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?**

It supports Strategic Action 3.12 which seeks to improve access for underserved students to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and building trades programs.

**How will the success of this contract be measured?**

One outstanding example of the success of CTSOs is the hard work and dedication represented in the FFA club. When studying CTE at the secondary level, many CTSO members study for and compete in Career Development Events focusing on their area of study. The W.B. Saul H.S. of Agricultural Sciences FFA club has a rich history of student success in this area. W.B. Saul is home to nine state championships, seven in the Landscape/Nursery Judging contest and two in the Meats Evaluation contest. The 2005 Pennsylvania FFA President was a W.B. Saul graduate, and was the first ever African American to lead Pennsylvania FFA.

**Related resolution(s)/approval(s):**

April 30, 2020, #51

May 17, 2018; B-20

November 16, 2017; B-9

December 15, 2016: B-9

**Funding Source(s):**

FY 24-25 Operating & Grants

**Office Originating Request:**

Academic Services